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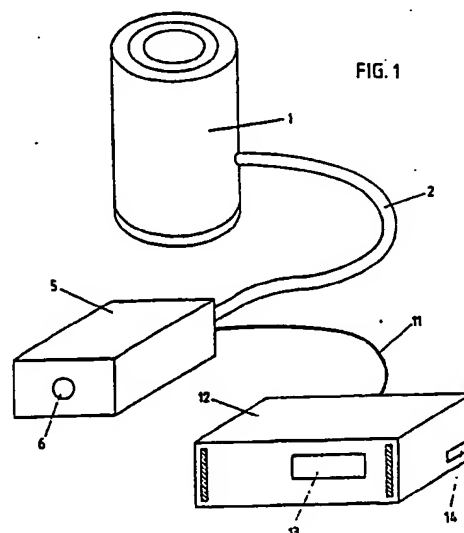
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(54) **System for the registration of and/or combating pests, such as mice and rats.**

(57) A system for the registration of and/or combating pests, such as for example mice rats, with an electronic registration unit (12), connectable with one or a number of luring boxes (5) selectively disposed in areas to be covered by the system, which on detection of such a pest animal emit a signal to the registration unit (12), said system comprising one or a number of luring boxes (5), selectively disposed in the area to be covered by the system, each provided with an entrance aperture (6) for a pest animal, a movement detector (7), a connection (11) for an electronic registration unit (12), a suction tube (2), connectable with a suction unit (1).



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# System for the registration of and/or combating pests, such as mice and rats.

The invention relates to a system for combating pests, such as mice and rats, with an electronic registration unit, connectable with one or a number of rodent detectors, selectively mountable in an area to be covered by the system, which on detection of such a rodent give a signal to the registration unit.

Such a system is known from Dutch Patent Application No. 87 00138, which discloses a device for the local registration of small, warm-blooded animals, such as rats and mice. In this known system use is made of measuring boxes, provided with infra-red detectors, which react on the body-heat of for example mice. Such measuring boxes are positioned unobtrusively at selective locations in an area to be guarded, for example a shop storehouse or production area, and will produce a signal on detection of for example a mouse, that is converted into a counting pulse, which can be counted and registered in the measuring box itself or in a central registration unit, with which all boxes are connected. On the basis of the measuring results it can be determined at what locations measures, such as the positioning of poisonous bait, should be taken.

Such a system provides the advantage, that the measures to be taken, such as the distribution of poisonous bait, can be restricted to those locations, where this is most meaningful. However the disadvantage remains, that in this case as well poisonous bait is still used. If other combating measures are considered, such as the positioning of suitable traps, etc., this is accompanied by the disadvantage, that combating of the pest becomes rather cumbersome.

It is now the object of the invention to provide a system, as described in the beginning, with which said disadvantages are avoided, and whereby it will be possible to combat a local pest of for example mice or rats in the fastest and most efficient way.

To that end the invention provides a system as described in the beginning, characterised in that this system comprises one or a number of luring boxes, selectively disposed in the areas to be covered by the system, each provided with an entrance for a rodent, a rodent detector, a connection for an electronic registration unit, a suction tube, connectable with a suction unit.

As known, animals, such as mice and rats show the natural tendency to crawl into enclosed areas by way of small apertures. Based on this natural tendency to crawl into enclosed areas, the invention makes effective use of luring boxes, provided with an adapted small aperture, through

which for example a rat or a mouse may enter, and also provided with a suction duct, through which, if connected with a strong suction unit, the animal is subsequently discharged at high speed and will be killed by the impact. The invention efficiently combines the use of such luring boxes with a detection- and registration-system, whereby each luring box comprises its own detector, which detects the presence of such a rodent, and produces a signal, that may be used on the one hand to register such an animal, and on the other hand to trigger the suction system.

It will be efficient that each luring box has a movement detector, for example active infra-red, passive infra-red, radar, ultrasonic, microswitch, etc.. The movement detector reacts on the displacement or presence of the animal; the movement detector may for example consist of a passive infra-red sensor, which reacts on the body-heat of the animal. Another possibility is, that the movement detector is a microswitch acting on contact or on weight. It may be positioned for example behind the rodent aperture of such a luring box.

With the system according to the invention it is possible on the one hand to position the luring boxes without them being connected with the suction unit, in order to register in the same manner as for example according to Dutch Patent Application No. 87 00138, where the rodents to be combated, occur most. Thereafter it can then be decided which luring boxes of the system should be connected with the suction system, whereafter the system is effective for the factual combating.

It is also possible to use a continuous mounting, whereby all luring boxes are directly connected with the suction system or a central suction system, and that will instantaneously react, on being signalled by the detectors. By a central suction system use may be made of a valve system controlled in combination with a PLC, which sees to it, that suction is only exerted in the luring box where the past animal has announced itself, thus avoiding waste of unnecessary suction power. By the application of luring boxes in combination with a suction system, in a registration system controlled by detectors, a universal system is obtained, both suitable for registration exclusively, elimination exclusively, as well as the combination of registration and elimination. Such a system can be installed conveniently in an area to be guarded, for example a storage, shop, production area, etc., and the connecting tubes of the suction system can be connected and disconnected as desired. On turning to actual combating, only the suction installation has to be mounted and to be connected.

The invention will be illustrated in more detail by way of an embodiment with reference to the drawing. In the drawing:

Fig.1 shows a diagrammatically presented embodiment with only one luring box,

Fig.2 shows a plan view of the luring box of Fig.1 in longitudinal cross-section.

In the drawing a suction unit is indicated with 1. This suction unit may consist of a heavy vacuum-cleaner, or a vacuum drum, which is maintained under vacuum by external means, or a strong centrifugal motor with chip box. By way of a suction tube 2 this suction unit 1 is connected by way of a connection 3 with the suction tube 4 at the rear of a luring box 5, at its front provided with an entrance aperture 6, dimensioned in such a way, that a small rodent, such as a mouse, may just enter therethrough. A sensor is mounted in the luring box, for example near the aperture 6, in the case shown a passive infra-red sensor 7, which is activated by the presence of a rodent. This sensor is part of a detector circuit, the remainder of which is housed in the area 8 of the box. The inner area 9 of the box, wherein the entered rodent arrives, is in direct connection with suction tube 4, to which the suction tube 2 of the suction unit 1 is connected. The detector circuit is further connected with a central registration unit 12 by way of a connecting cable 11, which unit is provided with a presentation panel 13 and a printer outlet 14.

Though in the diagrammatic presentations of Fig.1 only one luring box is shown, which is connected with the suction unit 1, it will be understood, that in practice a number of such luring boxes 5, disposed at various positions in an area to be guarded, may be connected with a central suction unit.

If such a system is operative, the detector 7, mounted in said box, will signal the presence of a rodent, when the rodent enters the luring box 5, which signal will be processed by the electronics 8 to an outlet signal, that is passed to the central registration unit 12 by way of the connection cable 11. This pulse is counted by way of a suitable counter circuit and the number registered per luring box is shown on the presentation panel 13 and is stored in a memory, of which a list may be printed at intervals. If the suction unit 1 is not connected with the luring boxes, a selective registration takes place, from which can be concluded, which luring box or luring boxes should eventually be connected with the suction unit 1. If the latter is connected, each connected luring box will accomplish its eliminating activity, that is, as soon as a rodent has arrived into the interior area 9 of the luring box 5 through an aperture 6, the suction unit is activated by the detection signal, so that the animal is removed at short notice through the suc-

tion tube 2 to the suction unit 1.

The suction unit is activated by the detection signal of the luring box and remains operative for a specific period of time, which can be adjusted in the suction unit.

A signaling device (for example a lamp or counter) is mounted on the suction unit, indicating, whether the suction unit has been operative, thus avoiding unnecessary control of the receptacle in the suction unit.

The signaling remains present until it is reset manually.

It is also possible to register and to eliminate simultaneously, whereby the suction unit and the registration unit operate in combination.

Though the invention has been illustrated in the above by way of a system for combating a rodent pest, it will be obvious that it can be used for combating other pests as well by suitable modifications.

In such a case the dimensions of the various boxes and their apertures will have to be adapted to the size of the animals to be trapped.

In addition a number of variations are possible, which all fall within the scope of the present invention. This for example the suction tubes of a number of luring boxes may emerge into the container of the suction unit, or may be connected with a distribution duct, connected therewith. In addition each luring box may comprise its own registration in the form of a continuous counter, instead of using a central registration unit. Other variations and modifications will be obvious to the expert.

## Claims

1. A system for the registration of and/or combating pests, such as for example mice rats, with an electronic registration unit, connectable with one or a number of luring boxes selectively disposed in areas to be covered by the system, which on detection of such a pest animal emit a signal to the registration unit, characterised in that the system comprises one or a number of luring boxes, selectively disposed in the area to be covered by the system, each provided with an entrance aperture for a pest animal, a movement detector, a connection for an electronic registration unit, a suction tube, connectable with a suction unit.

2. A system according to claim 1, characterised in that each luring box is provided with a movement detector (for example infra-red).

3. A luring box for use in the system according to one of the preceding claims.

FIG. 1

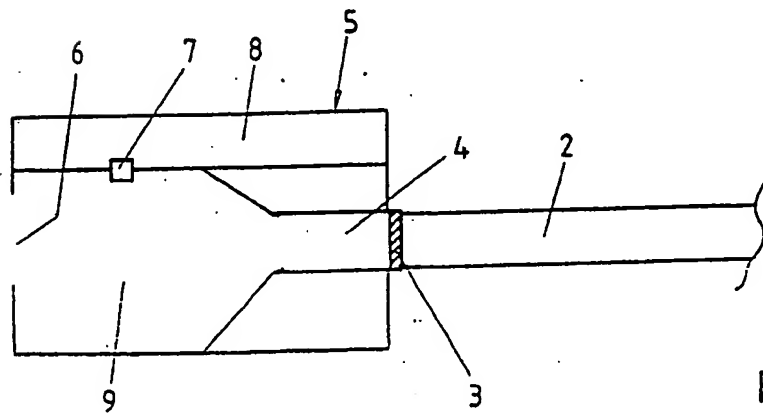
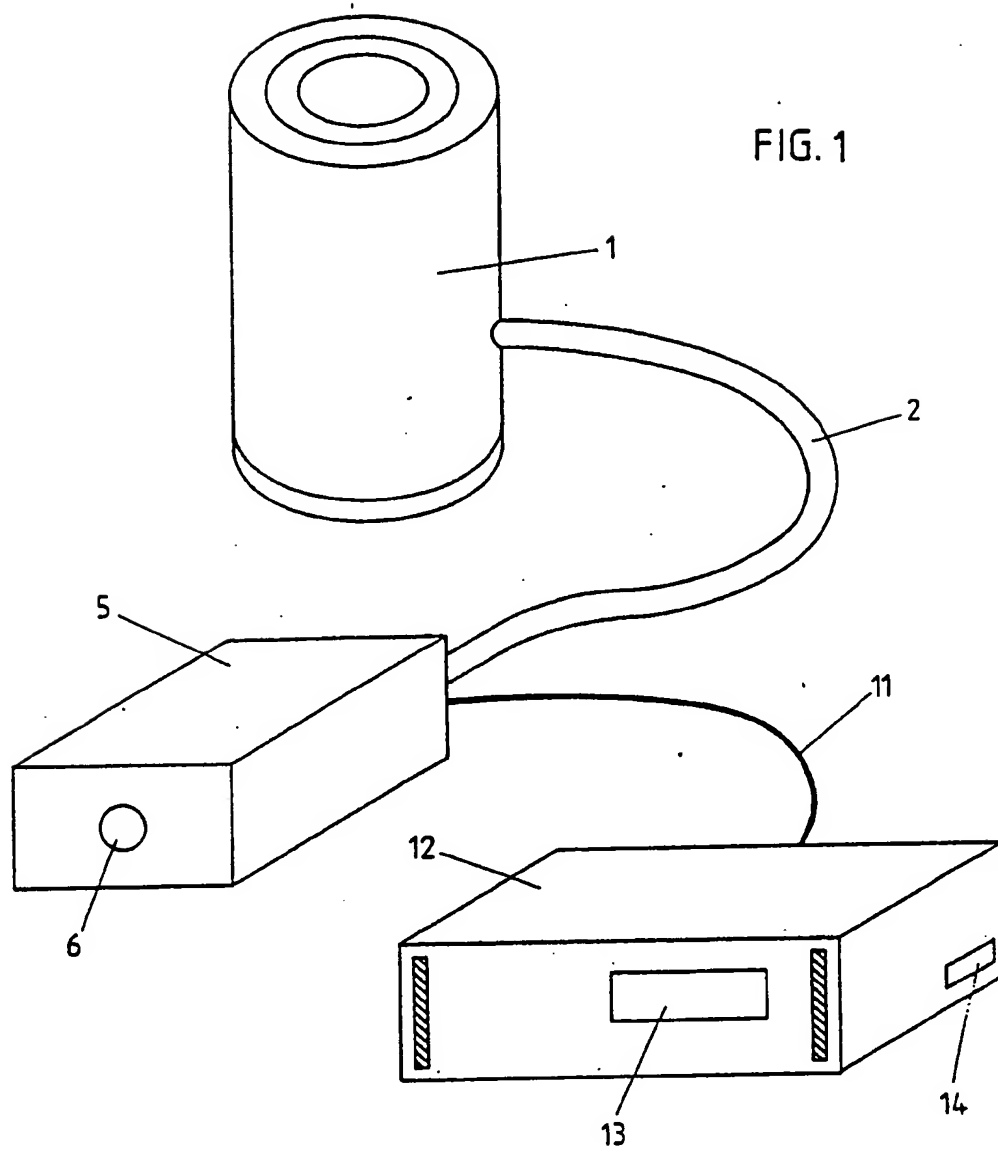


FIG. 2



European Patent  
Office

## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 20 0889

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL.5)
D, Y	NL-A-8700138 (PROTECTA B.V.) * page 1, line 32 - page 3, line 15; figures 1-2 *	1	A01M23/02 A01M23/12 G08B13/18 A01M23/38
Y	EP-A-159634 (IKARI CORPORATION) * page 2, paragraph 2 *	1	
A	* page 5, paragraph 1 - page 6, paragraph 2; figures 1-4 *	2-3	
A	EP-A-283142 (RENTOKIL LTD.) * column 4, line 27 - column 5, line 40; claims 9-11; figures 1, 5 *	1-3	
A	CH-A-349122 (A. MÜLLER) * page 2, lines 12 - 28; figures 1-4 *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CL.5)
			A01M G08B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 27 JULY 1990	Examiner NEHRDICH H. J
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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